

Cranberries Began to Bloom

Days suitable for field work, the week ending Sunday, June 4, 2006, were 5.7. Topsoil moisture was rated 10% short, 85% adequate, and 5% surplus. Temperatures were above normal for the week across most of the state. There were measurable amounts of precipitation in most localities for the week. There was over one inch of rainfall on Friday, June 2, 2006, in Trenton. Agricultural producers continued planting, irrigating, greenhouse work, topdressing fertilizer, pest management, and thinning fruit. Field corn continued to emerge in the northern district. Soybeans continued to emerge in the central district. Harvest of hay continued statewide. There was a report in the central district of weevil problems in some alfalfa fields, and army worms in other hay, corn and wheat. Heading of barley and wheat neared completion in the central district. Harvest of asparagus, lettuce, and herbs continued in the south. Planting of sweet potatoes and pumpkins began in the south. There was a report of some apple scab in southern orchards. Cranberries began to bloom. Pasture was rated in fair to good condition.

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR JUNE 5, 2006

Arugula & Kale – Good quality products are being harvested in good volume.

Asparagus – Slowing down, with light to decreasing volume of very good quality product available wholesale. Finishing up next week.

Basil – Harvesting fair to increasing quantities of very good quality product.

Beets – A good volume of good quality product is available.

Cabbage – Harvesting light quantities of very good quality product.

Cilantro/Dill/Parsley – A good volume of very good quality Spring planted product is now harvesting.

Collards – Harvesting good quantities of very good quality product.

Cucumbers – Beginning to harvest tunnel grown Pickles (Kirby cucumbers) later this week. Field grown will start to become available two weeks later. Cukes starting the last week of June.

Escarole & Endive – Harvesting a good quantity of good quality product.

Leeks – A light volume of over-wintered product is available now and for some time. Transplanted product should be available by the third week of June. Spring planted due in July.

Lettuce – All very good quality. Harvesting good quantities of Boston, Red and Green Leaf and Romaine. Iceberg harvest quantity increasing this week.

Peas – Fair to good volume of local peas. Fava beans starting next week.

Radishes – Being harvested in light to decreasing volume and good quality.

Spinach – Good volume of great quality Spring planted is now being harvested.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

Squash – Harvesting fair to increasing quantities of very good quality Yellow and Zucchini.

Turnips – Harvesting good quality product in fair volume.

Strawberries – The majority of our great quality berries have been harvested already, with light to decreasing wholesale volume. Matted row varieties are available in fair to decreasing volume in Central Jersey and good volume in Northern areas. Our berries are picked when ripe and have more red interior color than white.

Swiss Chard – A good volume of great quality Spring planted product is available.

Blueberries – Minor quantities of early varieties like Weymouth starting June 14th. Much more widely planted Duke variety starting 3-4 days later with volume available a week after that.

Cantaloupes – Tunnel started product should become available in late June to early July. Volume available in mid-July.

Eggplant – Harvest will begin the second or third week of July. Volume increasing each week thereafter.

Peaches/Nectarines – Harvest should begin a bit earlier than normal. Yellow peach volume will start with the Sentry variety around mid-July. White peach volume should begin with the White Lady variety in late July or early August. Nectarine volume will also start in late July or early August.

Peppers – Harvest will begin the first or second week of July. Volume increasing each week thereafter.

Sweet Corn – Harvest should begin the third week of June for tunnel started corn. Last week of June for field grown product. Good quality and fair quantity expected for the 4th of July. Peak of season should be the third week of July. Good wholesale availability until at least the week after Labor Day. Quantity and quality varies after that due to Fall insect pressures.

Tomatoes – Field grown could begin the third week of June with light volume and higher prices. Volume available around mid-July.

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